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VISITS TO THE FARM SHRINES OF AMERICA. *The Birthplace of Washington.*—Col. John Washington, who came with his brother to America in 1657, settled on the bank of Bridge's creek, a small inlet of the Potomac, where he thenceforth lived, and where he was buried. He had two sons and a daughter, and it was to the second of these sons, Lawrence Washington, that "the proprietors of the Northern Neck of Virginia" granted a tract of land at the mouth of Pope's creek, on the 24th of June, 1696. Lawrence Washington was thus an *original proprietor*, and in his will, which is dated March 11th, 1698, he says: "I give the tract of land where I now live" to John Washington. Other bequests are made to his second son, Augustine, and to his daughter, who was named Mildred, after her mother. But John removed to Gloucester county, and sold the Pope's creek estate to Augustine, the father of George. This is shown by the will of Lawrence Washington, and by the deed from John to Augustine, which, after diligent research, I have found in the archives of this county, duly recorded.

Nothing now remains at the Bridge's creek but the burial ground and vault in which are interred the remains of the father, grandfather, and great-grandfather of the *Pater Patriæ*, with those of their respective families. The vault where so many of the Washington family are interred is in an open field and unenclosed. A small space around it is covered with grass, briars, shrubs, and a few small trees. Itself can only be distinguished by the top of the brick arch which rises a little above the surface. The cavity underneath has been very properly filled up with earth by Mr. Lawrence Washington, one of its late proprietors, to prevent the bones of the dead being taken away by visitors, who had begun thus to pillage it. Not far from the vault was a large slab lying on the ground, with the name of the family and two children.

The "birthplace" is nearly a mile distant, upon a somewhat elevated plateau, around which sweeps, in a semi-circular curve, Pope's creek, just before it empties into the broad Potomac. An inlet lies directly before the mouth of the creek, adding much to the beauty of the scenery, while far across the river is the graceful outline of the Maryland shore. The bank at the birthplace is about twenty-five feet high, quite steep and wooded, while the creek, like the classic Avon of Old England, may be called a poet's stream. Undisturbed by all sounds of traffic, it winds its useless way through green marshes and wooded acclivities, which seem to have ever been sacred to solitude, and the prominent natural features of the landscape can have changed but little since Washington's infancy. The chance visitor can look upon the same scenery upon which that child looked, as truly as he can gaze upon the same blue sky and see its image in the same blue water.

The house in which George Washington was born was destroyed by fire soon after the family left to reside on their Staffordshire estate near Fredericksburg. A subsequent proprietor "either repaired one of the outhouses or a wing of the old one, or built a small house for his overseer out of the old materials." So says Bishop Meade, and I am inclined to think the latter supposition correct from the appearance of the chimney of this second structure, which is all of it that remains. Yet near it the filled up cellar of the "birth mansion" is plainly visible, and the plough has turned up several bricks, pieces of earthenware, and other mementos. Close by a luxuriant clump of fig trees and other bushes mark the garden ground, and a few daffodils bloom along the edges, where the matted roots of the fig trees resist cultivation. There is also a solitary apple tree, said to be the last survivor of an orchard immediately around the house, but I searched in vain for a scion suitable for grafting, for the recent severe winters have evidently destroyed all lingering vitality.

A small monumental slab, sadly mutilated, lies upon the ground in the clump of fig trees, where it was removed from the site of the "birth mansion." It originally bore this inscription: "Here, the 11th February, 1732, Washington was born," and was placed there by his ward, G. W. P. Custis, in June, 1815. Mr. Custis, accompanied by some friends, carried the slab to Pope's creek in his yacht, the "Lady of the Lake," and after they had deposited it they returned on board, and fired a Federal salute from a swivel which they had brought for the

purpose. It so happened that the good people of the vicinity had been much harassed by the British during the war just concluded, and when they heard the firing they supposed that hostilities had been re-commenced. The whole country was alarmed, the children and women prepared to start for the pine woods on the ridge, and the men gathered for defence.

It is due to the Washington family to say that when Col. Geo. C. Washington sold "Wakefield," which comprises the "Bridge's creek" and the "Pope's creek" estates, on the 13th of October, 1813, to John Gray, of "Traveller's Rest," near Fredericksburg, he reserved sixty feet square of the ground around the birthplace and twenty feet square around the vault. In February, 1856, Colonel Lewis W. Washington (son and heir-at-law of George C. Washington) presented these reservations "to the mother State of Virginia in perpetuity, on condition solely that the State require the said places to be permanently enclosed with an iron fence, based on stone foundations, together with suitable and modest (though substantial) tablets, to commemorate to the rising generation these notable spots." Governor Wise accepted the donation, and addressed a message to the Legislature, asking an appropriation to comply with these conditions, which was, after some discussion and postponement, granted.

The plateau on which the birthplace is situated is this year lying in fallow for a wheat crop. The soil is easily tilled, and is filled with small oyster shells, which are found in abundance on most of the points on the lower Potomac. At the time of Washington's childhood tobacco was undoubtedly the staple crop, although in an old ledger of that epoch, kept within a few miles of the birthplace, I found entries of sales of wheat, rye, corn, oats, and "broad clover seed." The same authority shows that they used "ploughs," "grubbing hoes," "plough-hoes," "wedding hoes," and "sithes." There are charges for "pickled pork," "stalled beef," and "mutton," and one gentleman who lived near the birthplace paid £2 10s. "for braking two yoaak oxen."

It is natural to suppose that Washington's life-love for rural pursuits was fostered at Pope's creek, where he resided until he had passed the first septennial boundary-mark of existence. There is no reason to believe that he was ever there a

"Whining school-boy, with his satchel
And slining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school."

But after he had left "the nurse's arms" it is probable that, in company with his elder brothers, he enjoyed those athletic sports, rural amusements, and soil recreations in which the youth of that time indulged, and which were well calculated to nurse his intellect into its wondrous strength. How I wished this morning for the magic mirror of Agrippa, or the wondrous second sight of the Rosicrucians, that I might call for a re-population of the scene as it was when little George Washington, with his "big brothers," used to work in the garden, ride the horses to water, swim the creek, play at quoits, or join in a game of bandy.

The estate now belongs to John E. Wilson, Esq., (who is connected by marriage with the Washington family,) a gentleman whose courtesy and hospitality I acknowledge with gratitude. He has erected a commodious residence, which commands a panoramic view of rare beauty, extending along the picturesque shores of the Potomac, with the "birthplace" in the foreground. The land bears marks of good cultivation, and the "negro-quarters," in a grove of pine trees at some distance from the house, are neat and comfortable.

Before leaving the birthplace I obtained a cane from an old and gigantic grape-vine which grows upon the bank of the creek, at a place where the chimney of the old mansion must have cast a sunset shadow. A souvenir from the first farm-home of the foremost American farmer, I trust it will be an acceptable gift to the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, who has labored so assiduously to "speed the plough," and I will say, as did Dr. Franklin when he bequeathed his walking-stick to Washington, "If it were a sceptre he has merited it, and would become it."

B. P. P.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—At a large meeting of the New York Geographical and Statistical Society, held on Thursday evening, March 25, an *Agricultural Section* was organised, and Mr. John Jay read an interesting paper on "The Character and Statistics of American Agriculture, and its relation to the Bread Question in Western Europe." Resolutions were adopted urging the General Government to make the agricultural schedule of the census of 1860 as complete as possible, inviting suggestions from gentlemen all over the country on agricultural subjects, and asking the Governors of the States for copies of their census and other documents.

HORSE SHOW AT LOWELL.—The North Middlesex Agricultural Society will hold its Fourth Annual Exhibition in Lowell on the 15th of September. The following two days will be devoted to a horse exhibition, at which about \$300 will be paid in premiums.

CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION ON AGRICULTURAL MATTERS IN MARCH.—*The Senate* received and ordered to be printed the report of Mr. John Clairborne, who was some time since appointed by the Commissioner of Patents as a special agent to collect information as to the consumption of cotton in Europe. He was instructed at the time to ascertain the amount of cotton consumed in the manufactories of each city, district, or county, either in Europe or any other portion of the earth where cotton is manufactured, the amount of capital invested, &c., with all kindred information. The result of his labors will be one of the most valuable "Public Documents," ever issued by the United States Government, and we regret that we have not space for even a sketch of its contents.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES a bill has been introduced by Mr. Gilmer, of North Carolina, to prevent the accumulation of an unnecessary surplus in the Treasury, and to equalize the grants of lands to the several States. This bill provides, in substance, that in all cases hereafter when donations or gifts of the public lands are made by Congress to any State, or to any company or corporation of any State, a like quantity of land (in proportion to the representation of the States) shall be due and granted to all the other States.

THE WHEAT CROPS.—The accounts of the growing wheat crop, from all of the grain-growing States, are favorable. In the western States, the quantity of land sown with wheat in the fall was larger than the previous year, the weather during September being especially favorable for it. At the commencement of winter, the growth was more forward than for many years; the winter has been quite favorable, in all the States, and the prospect of an abundant crop was never more favorable at the close of the month of March. Many express the fear, however, that the plants are too thick on the ground, and that, with favorable growing weather during April and May the growth will be too rapid, producing a weak plant, and inducing rust or "lodging." It seems to be generally conceded that the crop is past the dangers of winter, and that it will do well until about the first of June, when the next crisis of the crop comes.

AGRICULTURE IN FRANCE.—The Emperor Napoleon is exerting himself to introduce into France all the agricultural improvements which have of late years been adopted in England, such as steam ploughs, reaping machines, &c. His majesty is also indefatigable in his efforts to improve the breed of French cattle.

VALLEY OF THE RED RIVER OF THE NORTH.—From Prof. Hind's report on the Canoe route to the Red River settlement, lately made to the Canadian Government, we learn that the area of cultivable land of the first quality in the Red River and its affluent, the Assiniboine, within British territory, exceeds 1,200,000 acres. This does not include the Upper Assiniboine or its affluents. The area well adapted for grazing purposes in the same valley exceeds 3,000,000 acres. Of the advantages of this district as an agricultural country, the report says:

"It embraces a vast area of remarkably fertile, deep, and permanently arable soil. All crops cultivated in Canada succeed well, and often show an average yield far in excess of Canadian returns. All necessities of life, with the exception of iron and fuel, are found in great abundance in Red River valley. The probable existence of tertiary coal or lignite is noticed above.

"The climate of the agricultural season is well adapted for all the operations of husbandry. Corresponding observations show that the summer temperature is three or four degrees warmer than at Toronto."

IMPORTATION OF LAMAS.—A flock of forty-two Lamas have recently been imported into this country from Guayaquil, in Ecuador, South America. They were brought across the isthmus on the railroad, and re-shipped at Aspinwall for New York, under the care of an intelligent naturalist and two herdsmen. They have been imported into this country under the belief that they can be successfully introduced into the wool-growing districts of the eastern States, and become more valuable than sheep. They produce the finest description of alpaca wool, equal to the best cashmere, and if found to flourish in this country, the result must be highly advantageous, the wool being worth nearly double the value of sheep wool, that is, as an article of export. The shearing seasons are twice a year, and at each time an animal will yield between sixteen and twenty pounds of wool. They generally attain the size of a small jackass, weighing from 150 to 300 lbs., and live about eighteen years. As beasts of burden they are somewhat useful, being capable of carrying 150 to 200 lbs. weight. They subsist on the coarsest herbage of the barren regions of the Andes, and, it is believed, are well adapted to the climate of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, &c. Their flesh is esteemed very highly as an article of food, being equal to the best venison. So valuable are these animals considered in Peru and Bolivia, that the most stringent measures are adopted to prevent their being exported.

AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS OF THE PATENT OFFICE FOR MARCH.—We regret to learn, unofficially, that the publication of the Agricultural Report of the Patent Office will this year be delayed, by a resolution recently passed in Congress which requires that all reports and documents shall be handed in complete. Heretofore a *programme* of the Agricultural Report has been accepted early in each session, and the publication commenced at once, the compiler furnishing "copy" as the printing progressed.

Among other illustrations in the following report, will be a portrait of "Duke," a Suffolk draft horse, the property of the late Mr. Catling, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, which gained the first prize of thirty pounds, at the show of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, at Windsor, July, 1851, painted by Wm. H. Davis, of Chelsea, England, who has been engaged for upwards of forty years in painting prize animals in Great Britain.

Mr. Henry C. Williams, who was last fall dispatched by the Patent Office to make explorations in Western Arkansas, part of the Indian territory, and Northern Texas, for the purpose of obtaining information respecting the grape vines of that region, and making collections of the same, returned about the middle of March. He explored the region extending from a little east of Fort Smith on the Arkansas, to the Lower Cross Timbers in Texas, and includes a considerable portion of the Choctaw Nation. Eight hundred miles of this he traversed on foot, examining and collecting. He brought back a large number of cuttings and roots of the native vines, which the Commissioner of Patents has had so planted as will ensure their propagation.

Mr. Williams left soon afterwards for the "Cherokee country," Upper Georgia, to obtain scions of the celebrated apples for which that region is justly famous. These apples originated from seed sent by order of President Jefferson for gratuitous distribution among the Cherokees. Several varieties ripen in May and June—others are later, and will keep the entire year.

Mr. Robert Fortune, whose appointment as agent to China for the purpose of collecting seeds of the tea-shrub was mentioned in the last *Bulletin*, wrote a letter under date of "London, March 1st, 1858," from which we are permitted to make the following extracts:

"I have now to inform you that in compliance with instructions, I have taken my passage for China, and sail from Southampton on the 4th instant.

"It shall be my careful study to accomplish the important objects which you have entrusted to me, and you may rely on my not submitting to exorbitant charges, and on my acting in good faith to the Government of the United States.

"I have had so much experience in packing and shipping seeds and plants from China to India and England, that I venture to suggest to you that my operations should be conducted in the following manner. It will be imprudent to trust my collections in one or two vessels, as living plants are easily damaged during a long sea voyage. The more prudent course would be to ship by as many vessels as possible, say six or eight. But as this will occupy some time, I think I had better come home by the overland route, and bring the seeds (not tea-seeds) with me, and endeavor to reach America as early as possible, in order to receive the plants on their arrival. If, on the contrary, I accompany the last shipment, *via* the Cape, the first would necessarily be home several weeks before I could be upon the spot to examine it and do what is needed. My object in offering this suggestion is to secure, if possible, the success of my mission, and I have no doubt you will agree with me in the propriety of such a course of procedure."

A NEW COTTON IN TEXAS.—Mr. D. C. Sharpe, of Cherokee county, Texas, has sent to New Orleans specimens of cotton grown by him from seeds brought from Nicaragua, near Leon, in the mountains. It is the third year's production, on land lying near the 32d parallel of latitude, in a prairie country, the soil of which is sandy and saline, crystals of salt, saltpetre and alum being naturally formed on its surface. The stalk and bolls of this cotton, Dr. Sharpe states, are about as large as those of the Petty Gulf cotton; the seeds are much smaller, black and smooth, as a consequence of which, 1,000 pounds of it unginned yields 500 pounds of ginned cotton. But it is the lint of this cotton that is most noteworthy and remarkable. For fineness and silkiness, as well as tenacity of fibre and tenuity of thread, it has never been surpassed, if at all equaled. These qualities have led some to believe it the Sea Island cotton; but Dr. Sharpe is convinced that it is not, since it differs from that cotton in many material respects, whatever may be the correspondence between their respective staples. For instance, he says that 250 pounds of this cotton can be picked by one hand in a day, whereas of the Sea Island not more than 30 pounds can be picked. He believes that it can be successfully grown in nearly every part of Texas. If so, it may go as a great element of a new agricultural era in that magnificent State.

VERMONT STATE FAIR.—The managers of the Vermont State Agricultural Society met at Bellows Falls recently, and decided to locate the next fair at Burlington.

REMONSTRANCE OF THE TOBACCO INTEREST.—A memorial has been presented to the President of the United States by W. M. Burwell, of Virginia, James Guthrie, of Kentucky, William Brewer, of Maryland, and Tench Tilghman, of Maryland, a Committee at the Southern Commercial Convention, assembled at Knoxville, in August, 1857, "to invoke the aid of the Executive in obtaining some modifications of the excessive burdens imposed by foreign governments upon raw and manufactured tobacco, the product of the United States."

The memorial (which can be found in full in the April number of *De Bow's Review*) is an able and interesting document, replete with valuable statistical information. It shows the importance of the tobacco interest in a national point of view, as also the oppressive and illiberal policy of which it complains, and asks "that our ministers in Europe shall be instructed to keep before the governments to which they are accredited the justice and expediency of a modification of the duties upon American tobacco, both to the producer and consumer."

The memorialists "also ask that our Government will not overlook any opportunity to exact such a modification by making it the basis of such reciprocal laws as may be asked at its hands by other governments," and they thus conclude their able memorial:

"But should these governments refuse to consider the subject in a rational and reciprocal point of view, it will become proper to inform them that the Government of the United States regards the present onerous duties on a principal American staple as inconsistent with the system of free trade and reciprocity, which it has established; and such governments should be assured that they cannot longer hope to be supported in part by a tax upon American labor.

"It is scarcely the province of your memorialists to designate the remedial measures to be pursued by the Government of the United States. They will, however, suggest, for consideration, two which have occurred to them.

"1st. That the Government of the United States should employ the earliest occasion, when foreign governments, imposing unequal and onerous taxes on tobacco, shall ask at its hands some commercial or other concession important to them, to require from such governments a proper reduction of such taxes.

"2d. That Congress shall impose upon the productions of such countries, imported into the United States, countervailing duties, equal in their effect to the taxes upon tobacco complained of.

"Your memorialists leave the question of the constitutional power and political expediency of these measures with the proper departments of the government. It is their province to bring their grievances before the government; it is the duty of the government to examine, and if possible to redress them. Should, however, the latter remedy suggested be adopted by the government, our fellow-citizens, who now enjoy an exemption from foreign duties, will at least have an opportunity to share in the burdens which oppress this persecuted interest. They will thus co-operate in the reduction of those burdens. The nations of Europe will be satisfied that republicans cannot be bribed by special favors shown to one sectional interest to conspire in the oppression and taxation of another.

"We cannot, however, anticipate that enlightened nations, connected with us by treaty relations of the most amicable and reciprocal character, will continue, against reason and remonstrance, a duty so unjust, excessive, and offensive as that which has so long rested upon one of the chief agricultural staples and commercial commodities of the United States, or that they will drive us to the extreme remedies suggested in this memorial. They will, we hope, promptly assent to such a modification of the duties upon tobacco as will alike promote the interests of the American producer and the European consumer."

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR.—The next Fair of the Illinois State Agricultural Society will be held on Tuesday, September 14th, and the following days of the same week, on the west side of the Central railroad, four miles south of Sandoval, and about two miles north of Centralia, opposite Central city. The area enclosed for the Fair grounds will be twenty acres of high rolling ground, with a fine grove upon it, and well watered, while outside there is a fine locality for encamping. The expectation and desire is that the farmers will come prepared to "camp out," and a thousand tents or white covered wagons dotting the picturesque vicinity of the Fair grounds, will add to the interest of the scene. Sleeping accommodations will also be furnished by the Illinois Central Railroad Company, the officers of which have promised to have "two miles and a half of empty cars" on the side-track at the ground every night, besides giving up the neighboring machine-shops and station houses. They have also liberally offered to transport all stock and articles destined for the Fair free of charge, going and coming; and will carry passengers at half the usual fare. The premium list amounts to the sum of \$16,000.

THE ST. LOUIS FAIR will be held this year during the second week in September.

PATENTS ISSUED FROM THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.—For the week ending March 2d, each bearing that date—Joseph Baker, Washington, D. C., machine for stoning cherries.—Thomas Blanchard, Boston, Mass., improved method of bending shovel handles.—J. S. Butterfield, Philadelphia, Pa., improvement in harvesters.—Willis L. Childs, Piermont, N. Y., improvements in harvesters.—Orman Coe, Port Washington, Wis., improvement in harrows.—Frederic Cook, New Orleans, La., improvement in metallic ties for cotton bales.—Peter S. Carhartt, Collamer, N. Y., improved field fence.—Wm. DeWitt and O. D. Barrett, Cleveland, O., improvement in harrows.—Thomas Deulham and Joseph W. Briggs, Cleveland, Ohio, alarm sash balance.—Samuel Dennis, jr., Jasper, N. Y., improvement in hill-side plows.—Andrew Dietz, Raritan, N. J., improved farm gate.—Charles Howell, Cleveland, Ohio, improvement in mowing machines.—Warner Pickett and Andrew Hills, Naugatuck, Conn., improvement in corn huskers.—Jas. Powell, Cincinnati, O., improved hydrant.—Aaron Ring, Westbrook, Me., improvement in seeding machines.—Honore Roth, Iberville parish, La., improvement in method of setting sugar kettles.—Henry C. Smith, Cleveland, Ohio, improvement in harvester fingers.—Holly Skinner, Huron, Ohio, improved calendar clock.—Solomon Stransberg, Knoxville, Tenn., improvement in bee hives.—Hosea Southwick, Little Cooley, Pa., improvement in grinding mills.—Isaac Van Doren, Somerville, N. J., improvement in harvesters.—Isaac Van Doren, Somerville, N. J., improvement in rakes for harvesters.—Harvey Waters, Northbridge, Mass., improvement in manufacture of scythes.—Abner B. Weeks, Rockland, Me., improvement in lime kilns.—Eidridge Wheeler, Marlborough, Mass., improvement in horse shoes.

For the week ending March 9th, each bearing that date—H. F. Batcheller, Sterling, Ill., improvement in hand corn planters.—Hamilton J. Cox, Warren county, Ohio, improvement in sugar and cider mills.—William C. Doss, Texana, Texas, improvement in seed planters.—Edward L. Dorsey, Johnson county, Ind., improved machine for fitting wagon tires.—William Diller, Lancaster, Pa., improvement in lubricating the axle boxes of carriages.—Joseph and James L. Fagan, San Antonio river, Texas, improvement in corn huskers.—A. M. George, Nashua, N. H., improvement in machine for hulling rice.—Henry and Amos Hersh, Lancaster county, Pa., improvement in machines for cutting and crushing corn stalks.—Washington Hall, Brewer, Me., improvement in stump extractors.—David Hoke, Byhalia, Miss., improvement in plows.—Wm. K. Johnston, Rock Island, Ill., machine for excavating post holes.—J. H. Jones and N. W. Smith, Lebanon, Ohio, improved field fence.—Josephus Loving, Moscow, Tenn., improvement in cotton presses.—Joseph Redhead, Woodville, Miss., improvement in seed planters.—D. B. Rogers, Seymour Rogers, and Luman Rogers, Pittsburgh, Pa., improvement in cultivators.—Henry C. Smith, Cleveland, Ohio, improvements in harvesters.—William Wise, Washington, D. C., improvement in trenching plow.—Francis L. Wilkinson, Adam's Run, S. C., improvement in cotton gins.—Daniel G. Greene, North Bridgewater, Mass., assignor to himself and Geo. H. Greene, of same place, improvement in corn shellers.—John Henn, New Britain, Conn., assignor to himself, Anton, Danl., and Leopold Lankan, Hartford, Conn., improvement in attaching tools to handles.

For the week ending March 16th, each bearing that date—Henry C. Beach, Philadelphia, Pa., improvement in grain winnowers.—C. B. Brown, of Alton, Ill., improvement in seed drills.—Robert Hamilton, Franklin, Ind., improvement in seed drills.—John Leidy, Lamar, Pa., improvement in grain cradles.—Solomon Oppenheimer, Peru, Ind., improvement in milking pail.—Lewis Roach, Covington, Ky., improvement in gang plows.—Grey Utley, Louisville, N. C., improvement in plows.—John Van Doren, of Farm Ridge, Ill., assignor to himself and B. Murray, Ottawa, Ill., improvement in dumping boxes for agricultural purposes.

For the week ending March 23d, each bearing that date—Timothy Brown, Georgetown, N. Y., improvement in casting metallic cheese-hoops.—H. W. Brown, Millville, N. J., improvement in cotton gins.—Ezra Cope and I. W. Bragg, Cincinnati, Ohio, improvement in oscillating pumps.—Plumer H. Chesley, Linn, Mass., improvement in meat choppers.—Aaron F. French, Franklin, Vt., (assignor to George I. Stannard, of St. Albans, Vt.), improved binding attachment to reapers.—Calvin Dickey, Mercersburg, Pa., improvement in machine for cutting the leaves from the sugar cane preparatory to grinding.—O. R. Dinsmoor, Auburn, N. H., improvement in hay-cock protectors.—John M. Long, Peter Black, and Robert Allstatter, Hamilton, Ohio, improvement in harvesters.—Thos. McConaughy, Burnsville, Ala., improvement in plows.—Chas. Moore, Trenton, N. J., improvement in presses for extracting oil from linseed.—David G. Olmstead, Vicksburg, Miss., improvement in cotton bale ties.—Hiram Plumb, Honesdale, Pa., improved machine for turning tool handles, &c.—Hiram Ross, Rockport, Ind., improvement in cotton presses.—Thomas A. Risher, Circleville, Ohio, improvement in corn harvesters.—Heber G. Seekins, Elyria, Ohio, improved post for field fences.—Danl. L. Tilton, Mount Carmel, Ill., improvement in plows.

For the week ending March 30th, each bearing that date—Joseph Banks, Dadeville, Ala., improvement in cultivators.—I. V. Blackwell, Ovid, N. Y., improvement in machines for hulling and cleaning clover seed.—George E. Chenoweth, Baltimore, Md., improvement in

harvesters.—Asahel Cowley, Hoppersfield, N. Y., improvement in horse-bay rakes.—John J. Eshleman, Lancaster, Pa., self-loosening horse and cattle tie.—James Grant, Rochester, N. Y., improvement in horse-power machines.—W. W. Hollman, Eddyville, Ky., improvement in straw cutters.—John A. Jordan, Shelbyville, Tenn., improved churn.—Wm. Stevenson, New York, N. Y., machine for shelling peas.—George Telford, Pike, N. Y., improved cross-cut sawing machine.—Wm. Van Anden, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., improvement in harvesters.—George S. Ball, Dayton, Ohio, assignor to Benjamin Kuhns, of same place, improvement in seed drills.—Peter Bergen, New York, N. Y., assignor to Jane Ann Bergen, of same place, improvement in corn shellers.—Judson Knight, Newark, N. J., assignor to R. W. Booth, Providence, R. I., improvement in the manufacture of hoes.—Samuel Thompson, Hopedale, Ohio, assignor to himself and A. W. Taggart, of same place, improvement in seed planters.—Henry Shrader, Burnsville, Ala., improvement in cotton presses.

NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—The first annual Report of the Trustees of the State Agricultural College has been submitted to the Legislature of New York by Governor King. The report contains a brief history of the early efforts of the friends of the College to enlist the support of the farmers of the State and the favor of the Legislature; of the success which attended these efforts, in the liberal subscription of \$45,000, principally by the farmers of the county of Seneca, and in the loan of \$40,000 by the State for twenty years, without interest. It further states that a farm of 700 acres, of great variety of soil, well wooded and watered, has been purchased in the town of Ovid, Seneca county, on the eastern slope of Seneca lake, on which the College buildings are to be erected; that the site of the College has been agreed upon, and contracts have been entered into for a portion of the materials to be used in the edifice; and that there is every reason to hope that, during the present year, the centre building and south wing will be completed and in readiness next spring to receive those who may desire to acquire a sound, practical agricultural education and training.

Appended to the report, is a statement of the amounts received from individuals and from the State, the manner in which they have been applied to the purchase of the farm, and in the outlay for managing and providing adequately the necessary stock and implements, leaving an unexpended balance of \$30,000 yet to be received from the State treasury. This sum, it is confidently believed, will enable the trustees to complete the centre building and south wing of the College, with the principal room for instruction and scientific purposes, and the necessary accommodation for one hundred and eighty students. The trustees declare their intention to make this, in fact as well as in name, an Agricultural College.

THE SUGAR CROP.—The annual statement of P. A. Champonier, after referring to the adverse circumstances attending cane culture in Louisiana, during the last year or two, speaks of the present condition of the crop with hopeful anticipations. It says:

As to the coming crop I will venture no speculative suggestion. The number of acres planted may be less than last year, but the ratoons, which failed almost totally then, now give promise to more than supply the deficiency of plant-cane with an ordinary propitious season, and the absence of the unusual circumstances which have weighed so heavily on the sugar interest of this State for the last three years. I have a conviction that, the energy of our planters will enable them to overcome any ordinary difficulties, and that the result will show that the depreciators of Louisiana, as a sugar producing country, are very much in error.

In giving a recapitulation of the products of the several parishes, it is found that 1,294 sugar-houses have given an aggregate production of 270,697 hogsheads of sugar, weighing 307,666,700 pounds, allowing 1,100 pounds to the hogshhead. This includes 240,308 hogshheads made under the old process, and 39,389 refined, clarified, and cistern. Steam is used on 935 plantations, and horse-power on 359. The production of molasses has been in about the same proportion as in former seasons, if not more abundant, so that the entire crop of molasses is put down at 19,578,790 gallons, against 4,882,380 the year previous. The Louisiana sugar crop for the last ten years is as follows:

Crop of 1848.....	220,000	Crop of 1853.....	449,324
“ 1849.....	247,923	“ 1854.....	346,635
“ 1850.....	211,201	“ 1855.....	231,427
“ 1851.....	236,547	“ 1856.....	73,976
“ 1852.....	321,934	“ 1857.....	279,697

In Texas planters have not made over 2,000 hogshheads, owing to long continued dry weather, but they have succeeded in making a good planting for next crop.

THE AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY will hold its seventh session in the city of New York, commencing on Tuesday, the 14th of September. Hon. Marshall P. Wilder is the President.

EXPORTATION OF CATTLE.—Mr. George Latimer, of St. John's city, island of Porto Rico, has recently shipped there, from Baltimore, four full blooded Durham cattle, raised by Mr. John Evans, of York county, Pennsylvania.

BOOKS ON AGRICULTURE IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.—This subject received the early attention of the guardians of the Library, and was considered of fundamental interest to the prosperity of the country. Jefferson was one of the pioneer patrons of this noble and truly democratic science, and the books upon the subject, which belonged to his library, formed the nucleus of a fine collection, which was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1851.

A splendid chapter has however been re-collected, and the works upon agriculture and horticulture number about one thousand volumes, aside from floriculture, landscape gardening, and other collateral subjects. This collection covers works in various languages, from the ancient classics to the present time, including many rarities in the Latin and French. The science is treated generally in the most valuable Cyclopædias, Dictionaries, and Manuals, in English and French, besides numerous special works upon particular topics, such as drainage and irrigation; silk, cotton, cane, maize, tobacco, sugar, flax, tea, and indigo culture; arboriculture, comprising lifting, transplanting, pruning, timber, and dry rot; cattle, horses, sheep, swine; wine making and the vine; grazing and wool growing; fruit culture, comprising the apple, pear, peach, pine-apple, &c.; potato, and the rot; poultry; husbandry; veterinary art; farriery; agricultural chemistry; implements; milk; gardening; manures, soils, guano, &c.; bees; hot and green houses; insects, birds, and other enemies to agriculture, including the wheat fly; agricultural tours and views of the modes of cultivation in various countries. The serial publications are also numerous, among which are, Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture, Downing's Horticulturist, Reports of the American Institute, Transactions New York Agricultural Society, Coleman's Agricultural Reports, Young's English Annals of Agriculture, Loudon's Gardners' Magazine, Royal Agricultural Society's Journal, Edinburgh Agricultural Journal, Transactions of the Agricultural Society of Scotland, Transactions of the Highland Agricultural Society, London Farmers' Magazine, Cottage Gardener, Communications to London Board of Agriculture, Transactions London Horticultural Society, and the annual State Reports. The botanical chapter serves as a supplement to the agricultural, and comprises about fifteen hundred volumes, and the whole forms a source of information worthy of the Library of Congress.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the United States Agricultural Society will hold a quarterly meeting at the Society's Rooms, No. 356 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington City, on Wednesday, April 28th, at seven o'clock, p. m. The Vice Presidents and Honorary Members of the Society are especially invited to be present.

THE THANKS of the Society are due to Senators Hammond and Wilson; to Messrs. Morrill, Comins, Davis, and Underwood of the House of Representatives; and to the editors of the *Homestead*, the *Real Estate Register*, and the *American Farmer* for contributions to the Library and Reading-room of the Society.

HENRY S. OLCOTT, Esq., one of the principals of the Mount Vernon Farm School, and an active Life member of this Society, is about to go abroad for the purpose of examining and studying the agriculture and the agricultural Colleges of England and Europe. He will correspond with some of our principal journals, and his letters will doubtless be as excellent as were the descriptions of the National Trial of Reapers and Mowers, for which the Executive Committee of this Society awarded him the large medal.

The Secretary of the United States Agricultural Society respectfully commends Mr. Olcott to the friendly notice of the officers of agricultural associations abroad, and will be pleased to reciprocate any attentions showed him.

HISTORICAL NOTES AND QUERIES.—Hon. B. V. French, of Massachusetts, has furnished some interesting documents concerning the early history of this Society. Any other gentlemen who may have facts or papers in his possession will confer a favor by sending them to the Secretary.

"*Ploughman*," requests a copy of the title-page of "*The Gentleman Farmer*," a work on husbandry written by Lord Kaim, and published in England about the time of the American revolution.

VIRGINIA STATE FAIR.—The next State fair in Virginia is to be held at Petersburg, an arrangement having been made by which the State Committee is empowered to appoint the marshals, arrange the premiums, &c., and the Union Society bear all expenses. It is supposed that the amount of premiums to be awarded will exceed in the total \$3,500.

LIFE MEMBERS of the United States Agricultural Society are entitled to the use of the Library, to free admissions to the Exhibitions, to the annual volume of Transactions, and to this *Monthly Bulletin*.